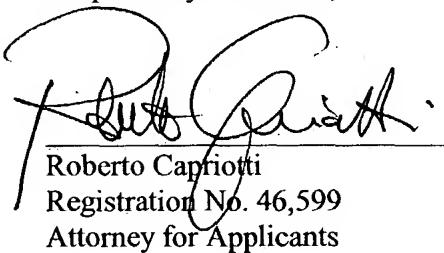


C. Remarks

Applicant has amended the specification to state that the present application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/897,234, filed July 2, 2001.

Applicant has herein cancelled claims 1-21 and added new claims 22-52. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification and claims as filed.

Respectfully submitted,



Roberto Capriotti
Registration No. 46,599
Attorney for Applicants

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART, LLP
Henry W. Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Telephone: (412) 355-8956
Fax: (412) 355-6501
E-mail: rcapriotti@kl.com